

## **MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE**

Meningococcal disease, an acute bacterial disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, is most commonly manifested as meningitis, but it is also reportable if confirmed in other normally sterile sites. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, intense headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, and often a petechial rash. Delirium and coma often appear and fulminant cases may exhibit sudden prostration, ecchymoses and shock. With early diagnosis and therapy the case fatality rate is between 5% and 15%. Transmission of the organism is from person to person through infected droplets of discharges from the nose and throat, more often from infected carriers than from cases.

### **Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:**

- Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site (such as blood, CSF, or less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).

### **Case Classification**

*Confirmed:* A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

*Probable:* A case with a positive antigen test in CSF or clinical purpura fulminans in the absence of a positive blood culture.

### **Comment**

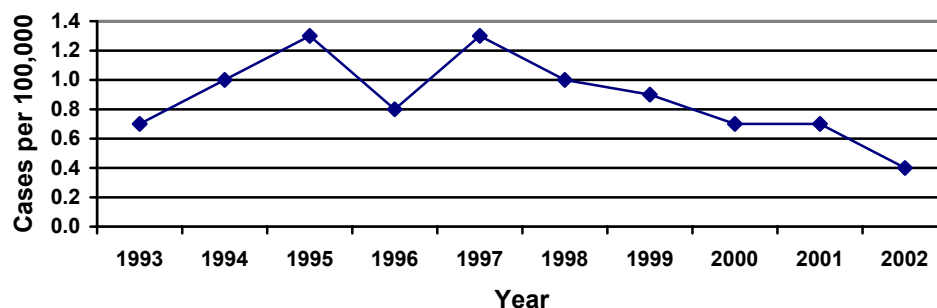
Positive antigen test results alone from urine or serum samples are unreliable for diagnosing Meningococcal disease.

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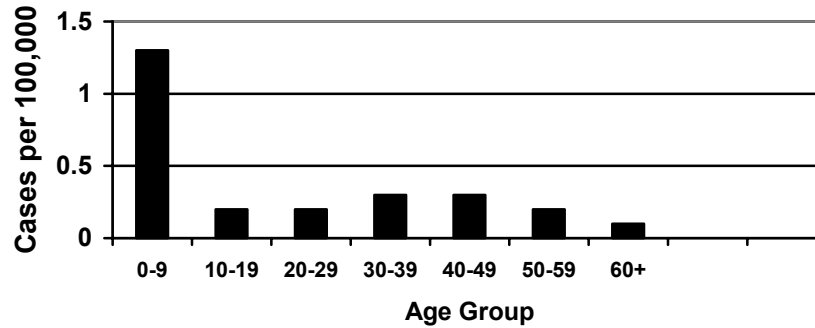
### **Epidemiology**

Kentucky	2002	Rate per 100,000	Cases by Gender	Rate by 100,000
Cases	18	0.4	Female 2	0.1
			Male 16	0.8
U.S. Rate (2001)		0.83		

**Meningococcal Disease Incidence, Kentucky  
1993-2002**

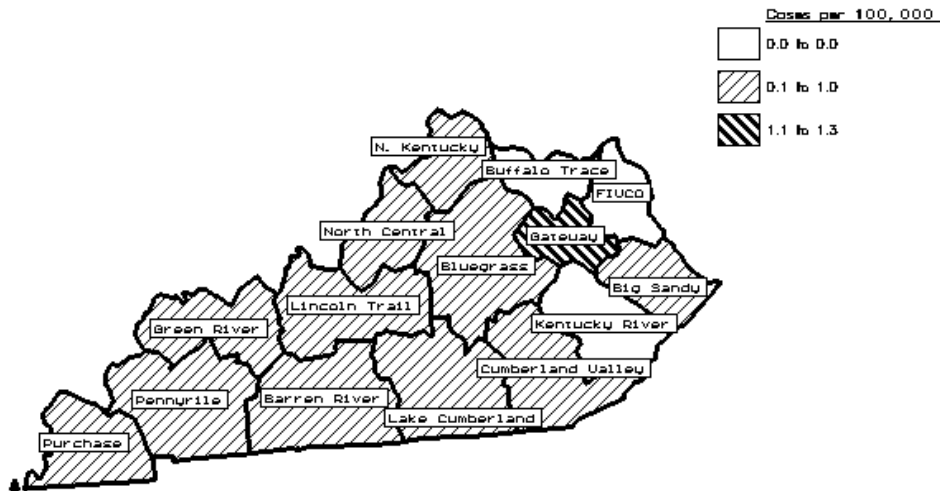


### Meningococcal Disease, Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 2002



The highest incidence was in the 0-9 year age group, with 3 of the cases 5 months or younger in age.

### Meningococcal Disease by District, Kentucky Annual Incidence, 2002



Districts Reporting Cases in 2001	Cases	Rate per 100,000
Purchase District	1	0.5
Pennyrile District	1	0.5
Green River District	1	0.5
Barren River District	1	0.4
Lincoln Trail District	1	0.4
North Central District	3	0.3
Northern Kentucky District	2	0.5
Gateway District	1	1.3
Big Sandy District	1	0.6
Cumberland Valley District	1	0.4
Lake Cumberland District	1	0.5
Bluegrass District	4	0.6